

October 17, 2017

## **ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Public Hearing – FY 2017 CDBG Program**

Chairman Breneman called to order a Public Hearing of the Erie County Council at 6:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, 140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 117, Erie, PA.

The County Clerk called the roll:

Members Present: Mrs. Fatica  
Dr. Foust  
Mr. Leone  
Mrs. Loll  
Mr. Breneman

Members Absent: Mr. DiMattio  
Mr. Horton

### **PURPOSE OF HEARING:**

Mr. Berdis of the Planning Department stated that this the second and final public hearing regarding the County's fiscal year 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program. The first public hearing was held on June 29, 2017 at County Planning. Notice of today's hearing was advertised in the Erie Times News on October 3, 2017. Mr. Berdis stated that no comments were received prior to today's hearing. The purpose of the hearing today was to inform the public that the County will be submitting an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting its FY 2017 funds, as well as CDBG funds of four municipalities whose program the County administers. The funding request totals \$632,496. This hearing will identify the projects the County proposes to undertake with CDBG monies and provide an opportunity for public input.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Mr. Berdis stated that the County is entitled to apply for and receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the State pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984. Approximately \$12.7 million in CDBG funding has been received by the County since 1985. The FY 2017 allocation is \$270,005 which is a decrease from last year's grant by 1.93%. The deadline to submit application was originally November 3<sup>rd</sup> but has been extended to December 8 because the State was unable to provide grantees with the new application packet.

Mr. Berdis explained that CDBG funds are to be used to assist one or more of its 29 "non-entitlement" municipalities. They are municipalities which are not eligible to receive their own allocation of CDBG funding from the State or HUD and can apply for a share of the County's grant dollars. The funds are to be used to address housing and community development needs as long as the project meets the primary National Objective of the CDBG Program which is to "principally benefit low-to-moderate income persons". This is a person whose income is no more than 80% of the median income for the area. "Principally benefitting" means at least 51% of the persons to benefit from the project are low-to-moderate income.

### **PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FUNDING:**

Mr. Berdis commented that applications were sent to each of the non-entitlement municipalities on June 9<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of August 4<sup>th</sup> to submit a request for funding, capped at \$75,000. He explained that three applications were received and it is proposed that all three projects be funded. They are as follows:

- **\$75,000 – Springfield Township Bicentennial Park Recreation Improvement Project – Phase II** (this is for improvements made to the existing restrooms and concessions building at the park to improve the structure, safety, security and longevity. Upgrades will be made to the building

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exterior men and women restrooms and utility room. This project will benefit all residents of Springfield Township, which has a community-wide low to moderate income population of 53.1%. This project would be the second phase of recreational improvements at the park undertaken with block grant monies. Phase I was completed earlier this year, which included the purchase and installation of new playground equipment utilizing FY 2015 monies.)

- **\$73,203 – Lawrence Park Township Gindy’s Mobile Home Park Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project** (this project will provide for the re-lining of 140 of 8” diameter sanitary sewer pipe using a cure in place pipe method. It will also involve the spring coating of the interiors of ten manholes. This project will benefit 80 families at the park, consisting of 164 person, 122 or 74% of whom are low to moderate income.)
- **\$73,202 – Lake City Borough Rice Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project** (this project will provide for the rehabilitation of approximately 1,500 feet of 8” sanitary sewer line along Lake Avenue, once again using the cure in place pipe method. This project will benefit 45 families, consisting of 116 person; 66 or 56% of whom are low to moderate income.)

Mr. Berdis noted that in addition to funding the three projects, \$48,600 of the allocation will be set aside for program administration provided by County Planning.

In addition to the County’s CDBG funds and program, the County is responsible for administering the CDBG programs for four entitlement municipalities: Girard Township, McKean Township, Edinboro Borough, and North East Borough – with funds totaling \$362,491. These four municipalities are entitled to State CDBG funding because they meet the criteria of having populations 4,000 and above and are considered distressed. The municipalities have conducted their respective public hearings and selected their projects for funding, with the help of County Planning. Girard Township will receive \$90,954 for the reconstruction of Fairplain Road from US Route 20 northward; McKean Township will receive \$85,391 to purchase and install playground equipment for the Idyllwild Village Mobile Home Park; Edinboro Borough will receive \$101,678 for the reconstruction of Darrow Road from South Perry Lane to Heather Road, a distance of approximately 1,580 feet; North East Borough will receive \$84,468 to replace curbs and sidewalks along Lincoln Street from South Hill Street to Robinson Street, and also replace the existing 4” diameter waterline.

Mr. Berdis finished by stating that Council has a resolution to consider passing that would approve the application requesting funding from DCED totaling \$632,496, broken down as \$270,005 for the County to benefit non-entitlement municipalities and \$362,491 for the four entitlement municipalities. He explained that County Planning may try to get the application in to the DCED by the original deadline of November 3, 2017.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

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